



ArcSoft **video**
Impression™

Windows
98SE/Me/2000/XP

Create your own digital home movies and photo slide shows

ARCISOFT PRODUCT FAMILY



ArcSoft PhotoStudio®

Awesome photo editing for the home or office. Work with layers and enhance your photos in a number of ways.

Windows 98/Me/2000/XP. (Version 5)
Macintosh OS 8.6/9/X. (Version 4)



ArcSoft VideoImpression™

Create multimedia presentations by combining photos and video clips with audio, text and scene transitions.

Windows 98SE/Me/2000/XP.



ArcSoft PhotoImpression™

This all-in-one solution blends powerful photo editing with project templates and a slick, easy-to-use interface.

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Your complete multimedia manager. Sort, share and archive your multimedia collections in the easiest way possible.

Windows 98/Me/2000/XP.



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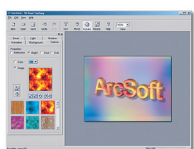
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- SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS -

- Windows 98SE/ME/2000/XP
- Pentium II 450 processor or equivalent (Pentium II 700 recommended)
- 200 MB free hard disk space (1 GB recommended)
- 64 MB RAM (128 MB recommended)
- 16-bit color display at 800 x 600
- DirectX 8.1 or above
- Apple QuickTime recommended

- INTRODUCTION -

If you're looking for an easy way to create and share home videos, **VideoImpression** is perfect for you. By creating a VCD, your movie is burned onto a CD, ready for playback on most commercial DVD players, right on your TV! Even if you're new to computers and don't know much about "files" and "hard drives" and whatnot, you'll scrape by just fine. In fact, this program is designed specifically for general consumers like yourself.



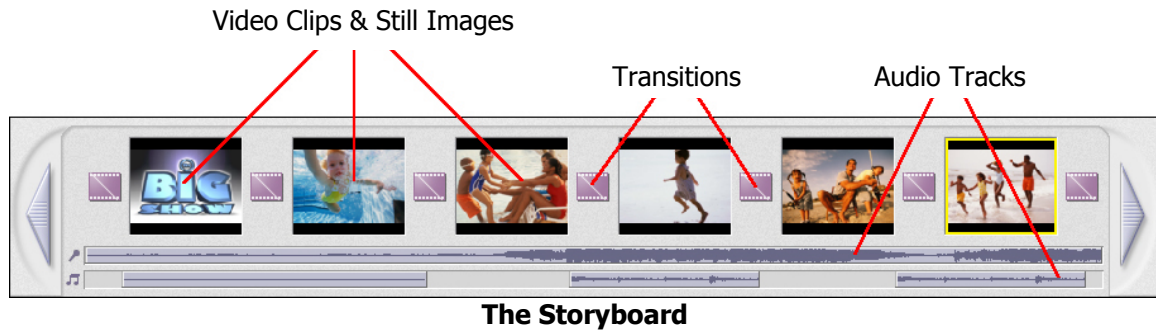
If you're the type that likes to dive right into things, by all means go for it! Playing around with the various buttons and commands is one of the best ways to learn how programs work. However, if you want to take it slow, take some time to go through this quick start guide. Also, don't forget to use the Help file that's built into the program. It closely defines each command on every screen. This guide is more of a practical tutorial.

VideoImpression lets you create two types of projects: video and slide show. We'll walk through the creation of both types.

- CREATING A VIDEO -

OVERVIEW

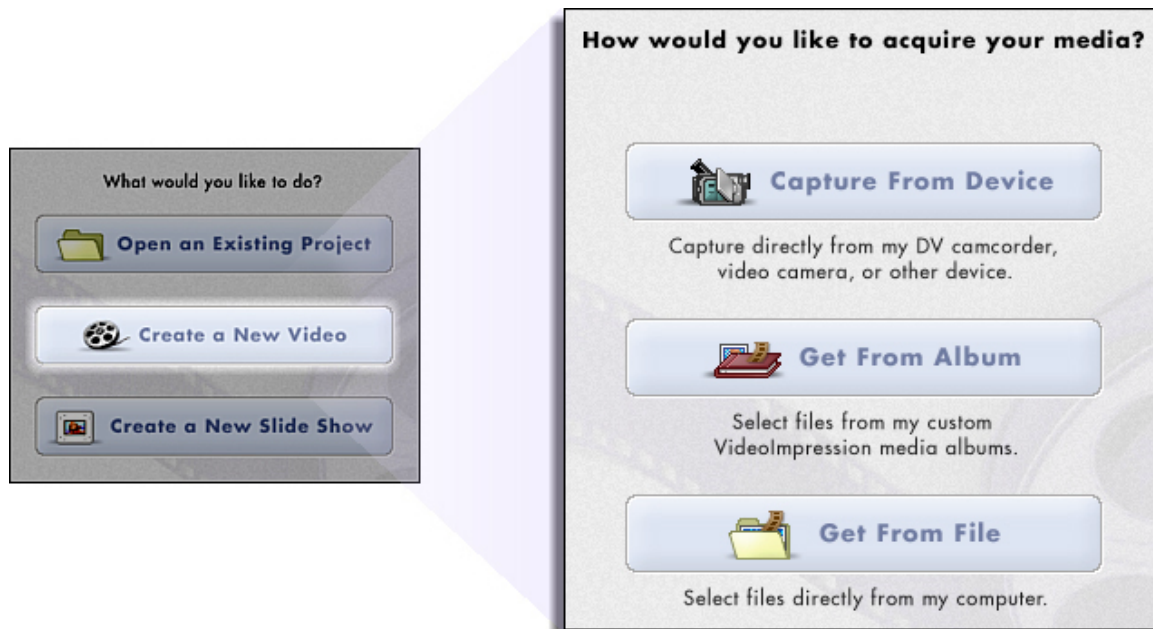
Videos are constructed by combining still images and/or existing movie clips. All components are arranged onto what's called the "Storyboard." When you make your final video, all of the components on the Storyboard are combined together and saved as a single video file. In addition to still images and videos, you can also add transitions between each component as well as sound clips on two separate audio tracks.



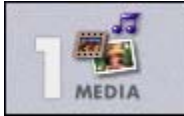
Confused? Don't worry. We'll talk more about the Storyboard later. It'll all come together.

GETTING STARTED

When you first run the program, a window will appear that lets you choose the type of project you want to make (you can also open previously saved projects). Choose "Create a New Video." A new window will appear. It will contain multiple options for gathering your video content.



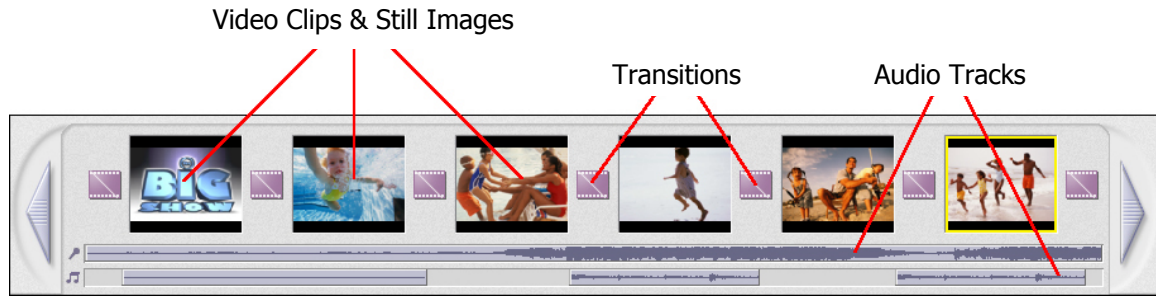
For this walk-through, choose "Get From Album." Even if you choose one of the other options, you'll end up at your albums soon or later. Albums contain shortcuts to files stored on your system. You'll grab most of your "media" for movie construction from your albums.



STEP 1 – MEDIA

This first step is where you select the “media” (still images, videos, and sound clips) that you want to use to create your movie. All you need to do is choose the components you want and add them to the Storyboard. When you save—or “produce”—your movie, all the components on the Storyboard will be combined together into a single video file.

Let’s look at the Storyboard again:



The Storyboard

The large squares are reserved for still images and video clips. The two horizontal bars beneath are reserved for audio tracks. The smaller squares between the still image/video clip components are for “transitions.” You’ll learn more about transitions later.



The top-left area of the program contains your albums. Use the pull-down to choose the one you want. To create a new album, choose “<New Album>” from the pull-down. Click the Add button (📁) to browse your system for files to add to it. You can create multiple albums to keep track of different types of photos (i.e., keep all your vacation photos in one album, separate from your miscellaneous family photos, etc.).

You can differentiate the types of files within an album by the way they look. Images simply appear as thumbnails. Video files appear as filmstrips. Audio files have a default speaker icon.

ADDING MEDIA TO THE STORYBOARD

To add media to the Storyboard:

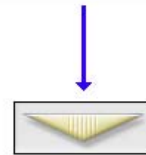
1. Double-click the component within the album.

Or:

1. Single-click the component within the album.
2. Click the Apply button (it's the arrow beneath the album).

Don't worry too much about adding your files in a particular order. You can click and drag them on the Storyboard at any time to swap positions.

Don't forget that you can add audio to two different audio tracks! You can overlap simultaneous sound clips and adjust their volumes to create the perfect blend. If you need to record audio, you can do so at a later step.



After adding your media, your Storyboard should look something like this:



REMOVING MEDIA FROM THE STORYBOARD

To remove a media component from the Storyboard, click the trashcan icon (🗑️) after highlighting (clicking) the component you want to remove.

THE PLAYER

Now's a good time to talk about the Player. The Player is the video screen on the right side of the display. It lets you preview each component on the Storyboard, as well as your entire movie.

The Player has standard playback controls. The slider beneath the preview window shows you the progress of the video. There are two times listed; the first lists the total time of the clip, while the second lists the time at the current position.

If you want to preview your entire movie (all of the components on the Storyboard played together), click the Entire Movie button (🎬). If you want to preview only a specific component on the Storyboard, click the Active Clip button (🎞️). If you choose the latter, single-click the component you want to preview on the Storyboard, then press the Play button.



THE PLAYER



STEP 2 – EDIT

You're now ready to touch up and modify your movie components. Different editing options are available depending on the component type.

MODIFYING IMAGE AND VIDEO BRIGHTNESS/CONTRAST

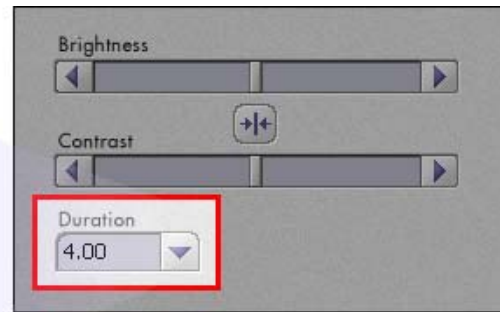
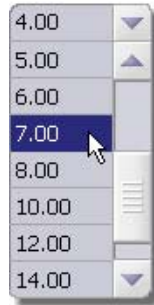
1. Single-click the desired still image or video clip on the Storyboard.
2. Click and drag the sliders to your liking. You can preview the effect within the Player.



SETTING STILL IMAGE DISPLAY TIME

1. Single-click the desired image on the Storyboard.
2. Use the pull-down to select the duration (in seconds) of the selected still image.

During your final movie, the still image will display for the set amount of time before proceeding to the next component.



TRIMMING VIDEOS AND AUDIO

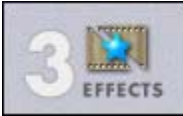
1. Select the desired video or audio clip on the Storyboard.
2. Drag the Starting Mark to the spot where you would like the clip to begin playback.
3. Drag the Ending Mark to the spot where you would like the clip to end.



ADJUSTING AUDIO VOLUME

1. Select the desired video or audio clip on the Storyboard.
2. Drag the volume slider to the desired level.





STEP 3 – EFFECTS

The third step in the creation process lets you add cool scene transitions between each still image or video component on the Storyboard. There are two tabs: Transitions and Themes.

TRANSITIONS

Transitions are effects that occur as one movie component changes to another. You can add/delete transitions in the same way that you add/delete media components. Click the "Randomize" button to automatically add a random transition to each spot. You can go back to Step 2 to modify the display time for your transitions as well.



THEMES

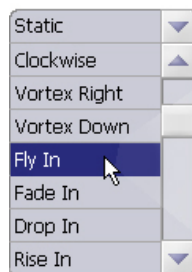
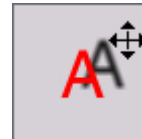
"Themes" consist of transitions and effects that are applied over the entire Storyboard. They all have a specific motif. Choose the theme you want, then click the Apply button. To remove a theme (or all transitions on the Storyboard), click the Delete All Effects button (🗑️).



STEP 4 – TEXT

This step lets you add text over any still image or video component on the Storyboard. Click on the component you want, then type in your text. You can modify all the standard parameters, such as font, size, style, alignment, and color.

You can also add a shadow. To do this, check the Shadow box. Click and drag within the preview to position the shadow behind the text. Use the sliders to adjust the shadow blur and intensity.



Choose a text effect from the pull-down. These effects allow various types of motion, such as scrolling or rotating text.

You can also control the exact display time for the text. In the Player, use the Starting and Ending marks to set when the text will appear and disappear.



STEP 5 – NARRATE

In addition to being able to add audio files to the Storyboard, you can also record audio directly within the program. To record audio:

1. Click the Audio Settings button and verify the audio configuration (in general, higher settings will yield higher audio quality but larger file sizes).
2. Click the red Record button.
3. Set the file name and save location for the recorded file. If you want, you can have the file automatically added to an album for easy access in another project.
4. Click the Start button and begin your narration. Press the Stop button to stop recording.
5. Click the Add button to add the recorded audio to the Storyboard.



STEP 6 – PRODUCE

The final step lets you save your movie in a variety of ways. Consult the Help file for details on the specifics of each case. For this guide, we'll save a movie as a VCD. When you do this, you can pop the CD into most commercial DVD players to see your movie on your TV!

1. Click on the CD tab.
2. Select the device/drive to which the movie will be written or "burned."
3. Choose the burn speed.
4. Choose the file type. (Remember, we're creating a VCD, so choose "Video CD File.")
5. Click Start when you're ready!



Congratulations, you're done! Pop your VCD into your DVD player and enjoy your movie!

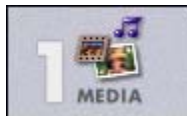
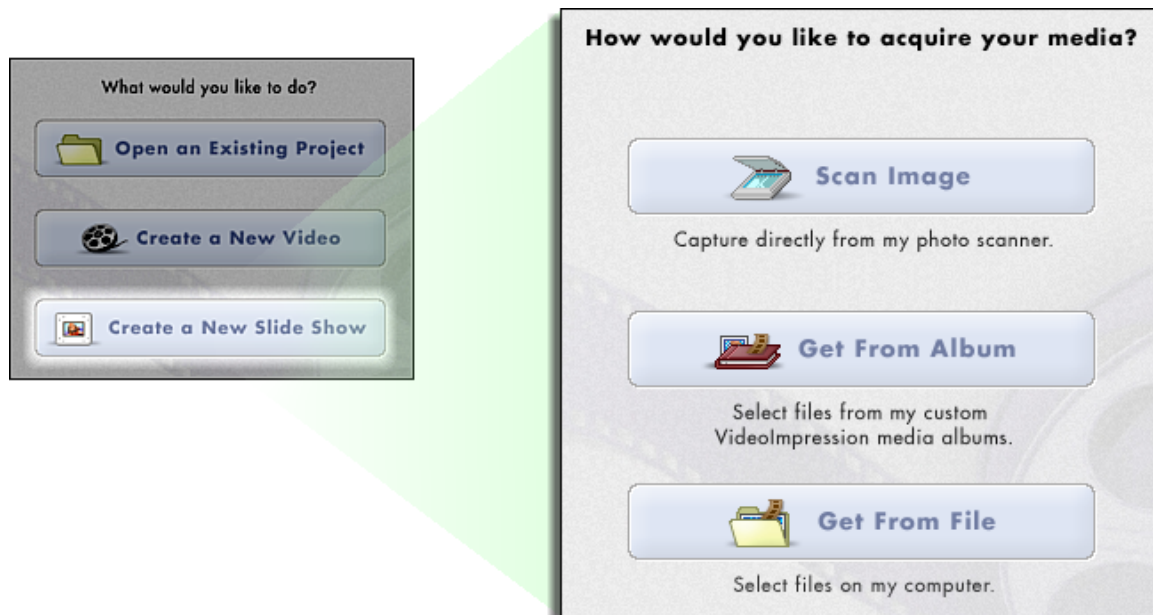
- CREATING A SLIDE SHOW -

OVERVIEW

Creating a slide show is similar to creating a video, only there are fewer steps involved. Many of the video creation concepts are applied here, so we won't go into as much detail as a result. If you have to, go back through the previous section again.

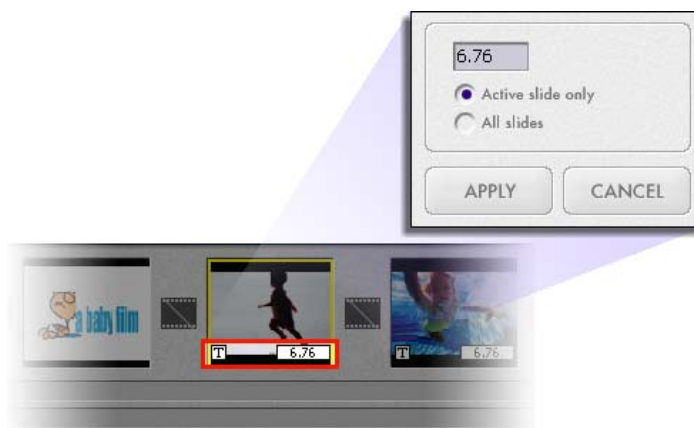
GETTING STARTED

The only difference here from starting a video project is the first option. Whereas you're able to capture video for a video project, you can instead acquire an image from a connected TWAIN device for your slide show:

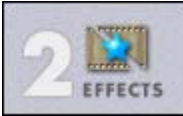


STEP 1 – MEDIA

This step is basically the same as the first step when creating a video. Choose the media that you want to include in your slide show and add it to the Storyboard. The components on the Storyboard will look nearly identical to the way they look for a video project.



The main difference that you'll notice is the display time for each still image is noted on the thumbnail. Change the display time by double-clicking it and entering a new time (in seconds). You can apply the new display time exclusively to the image you've selected, or all of the images in the slide show.



STEP 2 – EFFECTS

Effects (transitions) are added exactly the same as they are when creating a video. Double-click the transition you want and it will automatically appear in the next available spot on the Storyboard. Themes are not available for slide shows.

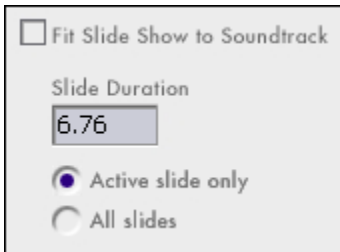


STEP 3 – AUDIO

Unlike the Narrate step (Step 5) when creating a video, the Audio step when creating a slide show offers you two different tabs: Soundtrack and Narration.

The latter works exactly the same as the Narrate step. You can record new audio clips, save them to an album, and apply them to the Storyboard.

The Soundtrack option is a bit different. It offers you the ability to fit your slide show to the time of any added audio:



Check the “Fit Slide Show to Soundtrack” box if you would like the current audio tracks to establish the length of your slide show. The display time for still images will automatically be set so that the slide show will end at the same time as the audio tracks.

You can also set the display time for the current still image (or all still images) in this window.



STEP 4 - PRODUCE

Saving—or “producing”—your slide show works just the same as producing a video. The exception here is that you only have two choices: saving to your hard drive and burning a CD. Slide shows are saved in the EXE file format, and cannot playback on DVD players.

- TIPS & TRICKS -

Here are a few pointers to help you out:

1. **Experiment.** Click on every button. Choose every different option. You'll learn the most and have the most enjoyable experience if you just play around with the software.
2. **Familiarize yourself with "albums."** The core of project construction stems from understanding how albums work. We'll tell you again here: albums are simply collections of shortcuts to files stored on your system. You can "add" files to an album for fast and easy access. If you delete an album thumbnail, the actual file is still on your system (unless you actually choose to delete it).
3. **Use the sample content.** The program comes bundled with a few sets of still images, video clips, and sounds. Use these to create a sample movie. Get comfortable with the various controls and commands. All programs are intimidating at first, but trust us, with just a little practice you'll be making movies and slide shows in no time!
4. **Preview your project.** Click the "Entire Movie" button when previewing your project within the Player. Always know how your work is coming along so you can make changes as you go along each step.
5. **Use this guide along with the Help file.** It's a tad lengthy for a quick start guide, but these pages walk you right through the gist of the program. Consult the built-in Help file for specific details on any aspect of the application.
6. **Check your audio levels.** Remember, some of your videos may have sound on them. Use the volume slider to mute a video's sound if it ends up competing with any of the clips you've added to the audio tracks.
7. **Save often.** This usually goes without saying.
8. **Use the "Fill & Crop" option.** Before adding still images to your Storyboard, click on the Options menu, then highlight the Photo Sizing group. Choose "Fill & Crop." This will automatically make your still images display in a consistent size.
9. **You can grab screenshots from your videos.** Right-click within the Player while displaying a video to see options for saving and printing the current frame.
10. **Have fun!**

- TECHNICAL SUPPORT -

N. America

ArcSoft, Inc.
46601 Fremont Blvd
Fremont, CA 94538
Tel: 1.510.440.9901
Fax: 1.510.440.1270
Web: www.arcsoft.com

China

ArcSoft Beijing Co., Ltd.
No. 6 South Capital Gym Road
Beijing New Century Hotel
Office Building #1060
Beijing 100044, China
Tel: 8610-6849-1368
Fax: 8610-6849-1367
Email: tech@arcsoft.com.cn

Latin America

Tel (Brazil): 00817-200-0709
Tel (Chili): 800-202-797
Email: latinsupport@arcsoft.com

Europe

Unit 14, Shannon Industrial Estate
Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0) 61-702087
Fax: +353 (0) 61-702001
Email: eurosupport@arcsoft.com

Japan

ArcSoft Japan
9F, 1-21-9, Higashi-Gotanda,
Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0022, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5795-1392
Fax: +81-3-5795-1397
Web: www.arcsoft.jp
Email: support@arcsoft.jp

Taiwan

Tel: +886 (0) 2-2506-9355
Fax: +886 (0) 2-2506-8922
Web: www.arcsoft.com.tw
Email: support@arcsoft.com.tw